THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The role of Central Universities established by Acts of Parliament is, *inter-alia*, to help remove regional imbalances, to contribute a corporate intellectual life in the country and to further national integration. While Central Universities are expected to maintain their all-India character in admissions, appointments and the nature of their courses and programmes, opening of these Universities in each State is intended to ensure higher access and participation by eligible persons belonging to local population.

Enrolment of students in mid of academic year

2690. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several students are leaving Australia due to racist attack in that country and are coming back to India;

(b) if so, whether Government would provide them facilities of enrolling them in middle of their academic year or after one or two semesters of completing their study in Australia, in Indian Institutions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how Government proposes to protect the career of these students who are leaving studies in the middle of their courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information provided by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, there is no such data available.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increasing lecturer-student ratio

2691. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to increase the lecturers ratio compared to the students in various faculties in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present ratio of lecturers and students, college-wise, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken to allot more funds to recruit the lecturers in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission has prescribed the norm of teacher-student ratio as 1:20 for general courses. The teacher-student ratio in technical and professional education institutions is decided by the concerned statutory council.

(c) College-wise teacher-student ratio as prevalent in the States is not centrally maintained.

(d) Funds for recruitment of teachers is provided by the concerned State Government.

Revision of age for compulsory education

2692. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the age-limit for compulsory education is being proposed at 14 years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether he wants the common children to go upto standard 8th only; and

(c) the reasons for not revising the age-limit upto 18 years which is adequate for matriculation and also reaching voting right stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Article 21A, as inserted by the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. Accordingly, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008 which represents the consequential legislation, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2008. The Bill, *inter-alia*, provides that every child in the age group of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 20th July, 2009.

Establishment of regional language centre in Darjeeling

†2693. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the centres for regional languages in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to promote the languages recognized; and

(c) whether Government proposes to establish a regional language centre at Darjeeling to promote Nepalese language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Presently there are seven Regional Language Centres (RLC) of Central Institute of Indian Languages(CIIL), Mysore and these centres are at Mysore, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Patiala, Solan, Pune and Lucknow.

RLCs are established for propagation and promotion of the languages included in the Schedule VIII of Constitution of India. Besides imparting training to in-service teachers and others at the RLCs, they also conduct programmes like National Integration Camps, Orientation Courses, Workshops

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.